

Statement of Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg
to Armed Services Committee of Senate

Re S. 448, The National Security Act of 1947

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET, 5758

Through, reliable and efficiently disseminated intelligence

is essential to our security. Our policy demands that we be forewarned, yet we cannot be truly forewarned unless we are forewarned. In any event, then, with the imperative problem of establishing now the best possible system for the fulfillment of our intelligence requirements.

Under the War II, National and coordination between the various departmental intelligence agencies of the U.S. Government and national and personnel. Certain interdepartmental committees had been formed but the effectiveness of their cooperation was in proportion to the voluntary effort and interest which the committee members were willing to devote to the subject. There was cooperation, and sometimes it was very good, but on the whole it was haphazard and fluctuating because there existed no clear line of responsibility and authority.

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and the subsequent early operations of the past war, forcefully demonstrated the need for closer coordination of all intelligence activities. Not coordination of effort, however important, was not in itself sufficient to meet the needs imposed by Global war. The preparation of our early strategic plans demonstrated the further need for an immediate expansion of our national intelligence effort. To meet these needs, coordination and expansion, there were formed in Washington various new agencies such as the Joint Intelligence

for we cannot, in our haste, leave dangerous gaps. Many functions of the departmental agencies can be transferred only gradually to Central Intelligence and only when the transfers have been made will the departmental agencies be able to strip to their primary task of strictly departmental intelligence.

PROPER LEGISLATION

The comments set out above are general but I believe that they support the basic principles that should be considered in the establishment of a Central Intelligence Agency. The provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 regarding Central Intelligence are also general. I understand that further legislation will be offered setting forth in detail the organization and functions of the Central Intelligence Agency. I would be pleased to comment on any such proposed legislation when drafted.

old policy only one thing in the intelligence field is certain the need for a central intelligence agency is a fact the national intelligence is a fact consistent manner for the future